Message Text

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R 162344Z AUG 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, PFOR, ZA, SF

SUBJECT: ZAMBIANS SEEK DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICANS

1. DURING MEETINGS AT DEPT AUGUST 15 ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MWAANGA TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM HE WOULD BE TRAVELLING TO SWAZILAND TO ATTEND TRADE FAIR OPENING, TRANSITING JOHANNESBURG IN CHARTERED AIRCRAFT SEPTEMBER 4 AND 8, AND DISPOSED TO MEET WITH WITH HIGH LEVEL SAG OFFICIALS PRIVATELY AND WITHOUT PUBLICITY TO DISCUSS PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IF SAG SO INCLINED. REQUESTED USG GOOD OFFICES IN MAKING ZAMBIAN DESIRE KNOWN TO SOUTH AFRICANS.

2.PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ADVISOR CHONA LATER EXPLAINED THIS INITIATIVE WAS REVERSAL OF POSITION MAINTAINED BY GRZ SINCE 1971 WHEN PM VORSTER PUBLICIZED FACT OF PRIVATE CONFIDENTIAL

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TALKS MUCH TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S ANNOYANCE. ZAMBIANS

NOW REGARD REGIONAL POLITICAL OUTLOOK SO ALTERED BY PORTUGUESE NEGOTIATION OF TERMS OF INDEPENDENCE FOR AFRICAN TERRITORIES AS TO REQUIRE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN GRZ AND SAG ON MOZAMBIQUE AND RHODESIA, AS A START.

3. WE EXPLAINED TO CHONA THAT BECAUSE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT IN SESSION AT CAPETOWN IT UNLIKELY ANY CABINET MINISTER ABLE ABSENT HIMSELF WITHOUT SOME PUBLIC

NOTICE OR EXPLANATION. WE SUGGESTED SAG MIGHT HAVE SOME HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE AT SWAZI TRADE FAIR WITH WHOM MWAANGA MIGHT MAKE INITIAL DIRECT CONTACT WITHOUT NECESSITY OF INTERMEDIARY. CHONA WAS UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATIVE OF SUGGESTIONS.

ALSO SUGGESTED MWAANGA MIGHT WISH MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH SAG REPS IN NEW YORK AT UNGA IN MID-SEPTEMBER.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE FROM CAPETOWN OR MBABANE REGARDING ANY SAG PLANS FOR HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATION AT SWAZI TRADE FAIR SO THAT INFORMATION MIGHT BE PASSED TO FONMIN MWAANGA IN LUSAKA ON HIS RETURN FROM WASHINGTON MEETING WITH SECRETARY. KISSINGER

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